

# Peace Poetry Contest & Reading

**All are invited** to the Northern Essex Community College (NECC) Peace Poetry Contest Reading on Friday, **May 1, 2009 from 6 pm to 8:45 pm at NECC's Haverhill Campus**, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill, MA in the **Technology Center**, room 103A. Light refreshments will be served.

**Gayle C. Heney, Poet Laureate of North Andover**, will be the **keynote speaker**. The book entitled "Northern Essex Community College Peace Poetry 2009," which resulted from the 2008 -2009 NECC Peace Poetry Contest, features approximately 80 poets from 41 schools and includes poems from students in kindergarten through twelfth grade and adults. As the first college-wide service learning project at NECC, many students and faculty were involved including Professor Paul Saint-Amand, who contributed the introduction, book designer Professor Patricia Kidney, with assistance from Bridgette Guy, and students and faculty who judged the submissions.

## About the Peace Poetry Contest

The Peace Poetry Contest and Reading is a program offered under the Service Learning umbrella at NECC. Its goal is to honor the ideal of peace through the creation and submission of original poetry on this subject.

This contest is not affiliated with a political organization and holds no formal position on the current state of world affairs.

## Who Can Submit Works

We invite children and adults from the NECC area (K-12 classrooms, both public and private, and those adults affiliated with these schools) to create and submit original poems on the subject of peace.

We believe that children cannot learn to speak the language of possibility, or envision a culture of peace, if they do not have the opportunity to identify such moments and values within themselves and their relationships. It is our responsibility, as educators, to offer students a way to fuel their imaginations and embrace the concept of peace.

Students from various courses and departments have contributed their talent and expertise to a variety of tasks including:

- participating in a peace poster contest
- writing news articles
- developing a website
- constructing a database of schools
- judging poetry
- preparing poems for publication
- creating a chapbook cover and layout
- hosting and tabling at the reading event
- filming and taking photographs of children and adults reading
- working with the local Lions Club International to display Lions Club Peace Posters
- and contributing to follow-up activities related to the project

This contest is supported by the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, The Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the English Department.